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prevention portions 60 are formed at an insertion end thereof. A pair of ~~elastically deformable~~ ^{elastically deformable} operating plates 59 are formed at opposite (right and left) sides of the front holder 53. A holder-side first retaining portion 61 and a holder-side second retaining portion 62 (which can be displaced by elastic deformation of the operating plate 59) are formed on each operating plate 59.

5 Next, an assembling operation of the connector 50 will be described.

The front holder 53 is inserted into the housing 52 from the fitting side thereof. This front holder is inserted into a provisionally-retaining position where the pair of right and left holder-side first retaining portions 61 of the front holder 53 are retained respectively by the pair of right and left housing-side first retaining portions 56 of the housing 52 as shown in Fig. 16. In this provisionally-retained condition, the metal terminals (not shown) are inserted respectively into the terminal receiving chambers 54 of the housing 52 through rear open ends thereof, and the metal terminals are retained by the 10 elastically-deformed elastic retaining arm portions (not shown), respectively. 15

Then, the operator moves the pair of operating plates 59 of the front holder 53 in an inserting direction A, thereby forcibly inserting the front holder 53. The front holder 53 is inserted into a completely-retaining position where the pair of right and left holder-side second retaining portions 62 of the front holder 53 are retained respectively by the pair of right and left housing-side second retaining portions 57 of the housing 52 as shown in Fig. 17. As a result, each arm deformation prevention portion 60 is inserted in a flexure space between the corresponding elastic retaining arm portion (not shown) and the upper face of the corresponding terminal receiving chamber 54, 20 thereby limiting the elastic deformation of the elastic retaining arm portion (not 25